



# The Guardian

VOLUME 40, Issue 2

February 2009

## For the Love of the Job

By Officer Clayton Powell, South Precinct  
(Inspired by Captain Dave Emerick)

To protect and serve is the oath we take. To watch over you as you rest peacefully. To make sure your kids get to school and return home safely. To stop that speeding vehicle before the driver behind the wheel causes irreparable damage to another. To answer the call from the alarm company that someone is entering into a space not meant for them. To ask, “Would you like a hand with that?” or “Can I give you a ride?” To say, “Nothing will happen to you or your loved ones...not on my watch”. These are the words from the mouths of those that endure months of academy training: countless hours of studying laws, procedures, manuals, training, constructive criticism, lectures, additional training, practical exercises, and still, more training. These are the words of those brave enough to apply for the chance to do the job. Not all who apply will meet the standard.

Then, finally, graduation day; the day you have worked so hard to reach has finally come. You realize that the goal has finally been attained. You have survived all of the hours of hard work while thinking, “I hope all of this is really worth it”. You and your academy mates gather early to check the freshly pressed uniforms you have worn on occasion for inspection. One final day of standing in formation with the people you have taken the journey with, the journey to enter into a life altering career. Ties are straightened, shoes sparkle with the glare of hours of waxing, spit shining, and more waxing; strings are burned away with the flame of a lighter so absolutely nothing flaws your look of perfection. The class president calls you to attention and your heart pounds as your chest swells with pride. You stand tall with shoulders back and chin held high; the lid of your uniform hat sitting just above squinting eyes trained to see everything in your path.

Families arrive and look for the one they are so proud of, the one they have supported for the past six months while all else came to a halt: nothing else

has mattered. Nothing would interrupt or interfere with the path you have chosen; the goal to step up to the challenge and become a police officer. The idea of realizing that goal has kept you going as you have remained focused on the task at hand. You vowed that weekly tests would be nothing more than a small hurdle, a mere speed bump in the path of your goal. A goal that is right there in front of you...so close you can almost reach out and touch it.

The presentations are made, the high achievers of the class are recognized, and you hear it: your name. You rise and walk on nervous legs, praying they don’t let you down at this, your proudest moment. You arrive, and approach as an outstretched hand presents you with tangible proof of months of effort and hard work. “Congratulations Officer Hall, you have met the qualifications required to become a police officer”, are the words you barely hear because heightened excitement prevents proper function of the eardrums. This is your badge. This is what you will pin on your shirt each and every time you leave your world to protect others in theirs.

You have entered into a world you know very little about, a world you had only observed as an outsider. You have entered into a world that takes on a much different impression of you because of the path you have chosen. You will be on stage for all to observe. You will be looked upon as a necessary evil. You have entered into a world that few would dare enter along side you: a world that few will understand, or are willing to accept. You will see that not everyone is as proud of your badge as you are. You will be challenged because of your badge; “If you didn’t have that badge and gun I’d kick your ass”. You will be ridiculed because of your badge, “You think you’re special because you have that badge”. You will be insulted because of your badge, “You Cops are all alike”. You will be criticized because if your badge, “You didn’t have to do that”.

You will be cast aside because of your badge, “You’re a cop...I can’t be seen with you”. You will be recognized because of your badge, “You’re the cop that arrested my brother”. You will be questioned because of your badge, “Do you know Officer Jackson?” You become accustomed to negative attention, because of your badge. Then, one day, when you least expect it, you will be praised because of your badge, “Thank you officer for all that you do”.

*Continued on Page 4*

### Remembering Our Fallen Heroes



Judson P. Davis EOW: 02-23-1911  
Fred D. Carr EOW: 02-25-1974

**Gone But Not Forgotten**

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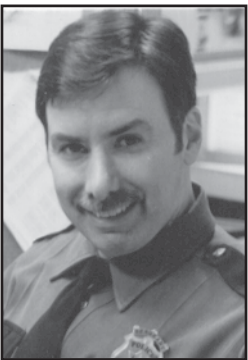
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# President's Message

By Sergeant Rich O'Neill, SPOG President



One of the duties I have as SPOG President is to serve on the Firearms Review Board. The board convenes whenever there is an officer involved shooting which involves injury or death. The board is chaired by a Deputy or Assistant Chief. The members of the board include a department Captain, a Lieutenant, a command level person from the training section, a citizen observer appointed by the Mayor and myself. The civilian observer and I do not get to vote, but we do see all of the evidence and we hear all of the testimony. So far this year we have had two officer involved shootings which have convened the Firearms Review Board. I have to say these two recent FRB's have made me so proud of the professionalism and bravery of the officers involved. I know the stories will probably be highlighted in testimonies for awards but I want to discuss some of the circumstances.

The first incident happened on New Year's Eve in the early morning hours of January 1. Anyone who has worked on New Year's Eve or 4<sup>th</sup> of July knows that you are deluged with noise complaint type calls. North end officers received a call of men shooting rifles in an alley. The officers responded and using the hands on training that they have received in Street Skills they formed a plan and a tactical team to check on the alley. Witnesses directed the officers to a nearby basement apartment. The officers standing outside the apartment were suddenly faced with an individual armed with a long rifle which was fixed with a military bayonet. The officers repeatedly ordered the individual to drop the weapon. The individual refused and pointed the rifle at the officers. Fearing for their lives, the officers fired to stop the threat.

The next incident occurred just a few weeks later and also in the North Precinct in a motel on Aurora Avenue. A call came in of a woman screaming for help in a motel room where a man was armed with knife. Officers quickly responded and heard the woman's cries for help. Again the officers formed a tactical response. The officers tried tazing the suspect through an open window but it had no affect and he refused to drop the knife. The suspect even pepper sprayed one of the officers who attempted to get into the room to help the woman. The suspect eventually emerged from the motel room and charged the officers with the knife still in his hand. Fearing for their lives, the officers fired to stop the advancing threat. The woman was successfully rescued.

As I listened to all of the testimony in both of these cases, I was awe struck with the courage and professionalism displayed by these officers. Each one of these responders put themselves in harm's way to protect strangers. Many often take it for granted, but when you stop and think about that fact, it is awesome. Officers who have their own families and loved ones waiting at home and yet they put themselves in danger to protect others. The other aspect that was so evident was that none of these officers went to work that night planning to fire their weapon. . None of these officers wanted to fire their weapons. In each case civilian witnesses heard the officers giving loud and clear commands. Each one of the officers wished that the suspects had obeyed their repeated commands and simply dropped their weapon.

One of the hardest parts of the ordeal for the officers is the aftermath. Counseling and peer support is made available for all involved. The public doesn't get to hear how a shooting incident affects some officers. The officers know they did their duty and they know their actions saved lives, but yet sometimes it does take a toll. Sleeplessness, eating and attention disorders are all common. Some officers say that one of the hardest parts is listening to people who weren't there offer their "opinion" on the matter. Whether it is banter on talk radio, an article in the newspaper or some "know it all" in the coffee shop. People, whose police training consists of watching reruns of CHIPS on TV, ask why the officers couldn't have shot the gun out of the suspect's hand. The officers know that these opinions are ridiculous but it still can have an impact. It has always amazed me that everyone has

an opinion on how police work should be done. I have very little mechanical expertise. Something goes wrong at my house and I don't even attempt to fix it. I call the plumber, the electrician, the auto mechanic because I know my limitations. If it involves wire, water or spark plugs I am out of my league. It would never even cross my mind to try and tell a professional electrician how to install a new circuit breaker. Why then, do some people think they know how to do the job of a professional police officer? As a supervisor I had several occasions to field a complaint from a citizen. When they seemed to have "all the answers" I would often ask them what they did for a living. When they asked why, I'd often remark that I didn't know the first thing about how to do their profession, but yet they seem to know everything about mine.

I think junior high and high schools should have mandatory "Common Sense" classes. The classes could cover a wide range of topics about things you often see people attempt to do. Some of them even end up receiving a "Darwin Award" for their lack of common sense. One of the segments of the class should be on these six police lessons. **Lesson #1:** TV police shows are entertainment. They have NOTHING to do with real life. **Lesson #2:** Shooting to wound or shooting weapons out of a suspect's hand is Hollywood. (See Lesson #1) **Lesson #3:** When a police officer orders you to drop a weapon, do it immediately. It does not matter if the gun is unloaded or a toy, the officer does not know that. **Lesson #4:** Officers want to see your hands, so keep them out of your pockets. **Lesson #5:** Obey the officer's commands. The street is NEVER the place to argue. Complain at a later time, but never at the scene. **Lesson #6:** If it is a traffic stop, being polite is not a guarantee that you will get out of the ticket, but being rude is a guarantee that you will get one! I'm sure the "question authority" crowd may cringe at my lessons, but if they educated their children on those facts, they may be able to avoid hearing that their kid may a fatal mistake.

Before I leave the subject of the Firearm's Review Board, I also have to compliment the incredible work done by our CSI and Homicide units. The technical and precise collection of evidence done by CSI at these scenes is remarkable. Our Homicide Unit is second to none. The detectives have to see the worst scenes imaginable, but yet they always conduct themselves in a caring and professional manner. Both units present their evidence with high tech computer programs and charts. Their skills are honed with years of experience and we are very fortunate to have them.

I'd like to thank everyone who voted in the recent SPOG election. It was not a super turnout and we only had one contested race. In that race, Officer Johney Stevens was reelected for another term on the board. With the board remaining intact, it was mentioned that the membership must be pleased with the job that the entire board is doing. I think we always have room to improve, but I am proud of the Guild and the work that we have been able to accomplish over the last couple of years. Always remember that YOU are the Guild! You elect us to represent you and we do our best to improve and protect your wages, benefits and working conditions. Never forget that you are also Seattle's Finest! Always stay safe!

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January 26, 2009

Dear Fellow Law Enforcement Officers and Friends of Law Enforcement,


As president of the Seattle Police Officer's Guild I would like to thank all of you who responded to my letter dated 10-3-08 where I asked for a letter writing campaign in support of two of our officers who were charged in South Dakota with a misdemeanor for carrying a concealed weapon. I would like to also advise you of the aftermath this has left for these officers.

The incident was as follows: On August 9, 2008 Seattle Police Detective Ron Smith and Sergeant Dennis McCoy were vacationing in Sturgis, South Dakota with members of a fraternal law enforcement motorcycle club. Detective Smith was attacked by a member of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Gang in what South Dakota authorities described as a "violent and premeditated" incident. In fear for his life, Detective Smith defended himself by using his personal handgun to shoot his attacker and stop the threat. The suspect received non-life threatening injuries. South Dakota authorities charged Detective Smith and Sergeant McCoy with carrying a handgun in violation of their concealed weapons statute. This was in despite of the fact that The Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act of 2004 (H.R.218) clearly allows qualified active and retired officers to carry a concealed weapon in all fifty states. As the case progressed through the court process, the officers were offered plea-bargain deals which they rejected because they wanted to see that HR 218 was upheld and that this important nation-wide right was protected for all officers.

The good news is that on 11-14-08 the Honorable Judge Warren Johnson of the 4<sup>th</sup> District Court of South Dakota dismissed the charges against the officers and cited HR 218 as the reason. The bad news is that the officers are now faced with legal bills approaching \$20,000 because they decided to defend their federal right to carry a concealed weapon. Friends of these officers have established a benevolent fund to assist them in paying their legal expenses. Anyone wishing to further support these officers and make a contribution can do so by mailing a check to:

The Smith & McCoy Benevolent Fund  
Seattle Police Officer's Guild  
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Thank you for your assistance.

Fraternally,  
  
Sgt. Richard F. O'Neill  
President

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# For the Love of the Job

Continued from Page 1

That is the day you realize why you chose to do what you do. You don't do this job because you like being questioned, challenged, ridiculed, insulted, criticized, recognized, cast aside, or even praised, you do it...*for the love of the job*. You don't do it because you are going to get rich or save the world. You may be rewarded or acknowledged for a heroic act. Heroic acts, however, are not something one plans. You are presented with an obstacle. You react to that obstacle, overcoming whatever it places in your path and hopefully it ends with a positive outcome, hopefully. You don't do the job so you can arrest the entire world. You don't do the job because you like the ugliness of society, or want to witness the horrors of inhumanity. Occasionally, the job presents a positive inflection to a dark and gloomy occurrence, and you are proud to be a part of it. Those are the times you realize why... *for the love of the job*.

The National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial is located in Washington D.C. and it honors those that gave, gave the ultimate sacrifice... *for the love of the job*. The National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial Store is not far away. I have visited both of these places numerous times and read the articles illustrating the selfless acts of those who did it... *for the love of the job*. Some of the words written on the backs of tee shirts to honor those who loved the job read as follows:

"There are two types of people in the world...Police Officers, and those that wish they were";  
"For those who pledge to uphold it, freedom requires a sacrifice the protected will never know"; and my personal favorite,  
"The wicked flee when no man pursueth but the righteous are bold as lions".  
A great singer once asked in lyric, "Is there a place for a hopeless sinner...who has hurt all mankind just to save his soul? For that hopeless sinner, there is a place and we call it hell, may his soul rest there."

At times you lose sight and things no longer make sense. At times it seems others don't care and you wonder why you go on. At times moral gets low and it seems those who walked in the mud before you don't remember the storm. At times you look for ways to make the problems go away so you can remember why you do it. At times you search for answers that never come.

When asked by someone that has no idea about the job you do, or why you do it, and you struggle for an answer, simply look them in the eye and say, "I just do it... *for the love of the job*."

I hope this episode of CP's Corner leaves a positive impression. When the last "T" is crossed, and the last "T" is dotted, go home, to those who really matter...by any means necessary, and make sure your partner goes too.

# Freedom from Independence Day

By Officer Steve Pomper, East Precinct

Now, you know me, or at least you know my gum-flappin' via *The Guardian*, and you know I always have nothing other than the best interest of our city and department leaders at heart. No, really! (Stop laughing—it's not polite).

Anyway, with this in mind, in this era of critical budget concerns, I have a suggestion: Why don't we end the 4<sup>th</sup> of July? Hold up. I'm not suggesting an end to our beloved national holiday. I love Independence Day. However, I am proposing an end to the annual cat-herding endeavor that are the East Precinct venues for the event, which necessitates patrol "red-dots," shift hold-overs, and detective drafts.

After all of the Fourths I've worked I've never been able to figure out, nor have I been able to find anyone else who knows, exactly why we close off a good chunk of Capitol Hill and the Eastlake Neighborhood roads to traffic and invite crowds to take over residential streets. Perhaps I'm missing something, but it seems to make no sense. I'm not sure how far back this yearly fiasco goes, but it seems someone made a bad decision many years ago, and now we simply continue to do it.

Although folks such as Lieutenant Phil Hay, Sergeant Jay Shin, Officer Mark Wong, Stationmaster Bob Dickson and others made last year's event more palatable than in previous years, it's still basically the difference between

going to the dentist to have your teeth drilled for fillings and having a root-canal; the former is "better" than the latter, but neither is desirable.

Seattle is blessed with some fine, and appropriate, venues for viewing the fireworks displays such as Gas Works and Myrtle Edwards Parks, which are specifically designed to attract and accommodate people, and where traffic control following the event are similar to Seahawks and Mariners games exit strategies. The same cannot be said of attempting traffic control at the East Precinct scattered residential neighborhood non-venues. In fact, it's a lot like attempting to provide traffic control for any heavy rush-hour commute. The city's sanctioning the luring of folks into multiple residential areas intentionally creating unnecessary gridlock, seems dubious at best, ludicrous at worst.

Now, let me reiterate that my intent here is explicitly altruistic. I'm only looking out for our city and department leaders and their budgets; that's all I really care about. I don't mind being mandated to work overtime nearly every Independence Day and almost never being able to schedule a vacation on that holiday. Hell no! I am purely and simply a company man and if I have to sacrifice by not standing a five-hour traffic control post, after a nine-hour patrol shift, at a dead-end street, on a great American holiday, then so be it; we all have give up something for the cause.

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# More Numbers

By Officer Mike Severance, SPOG Secretary-Treasurer

The Chief’s end of year email to all of us stated that Seattle crime is at 1967 levels. He may not have been including the South Precinct in that statement. Some taxpayers, namely the South Precinct Crime Prevention Council, finally got suspicious of the Chief’s rosy statements about crime in Seattle. They could not reconcile the Chief’s numbers with a little thing called reality. One of their members sent the Chief a Public Disclosure Request asking for the South Precinct’s crime figures for 2007 and 2008. The request was for stats within the 2007 boundaries of the South Precinct. The boundaries changed in 2008 when our new best friend, the Neighborhood Policing Plan, was initiated.

The department provided the requested information. The department even tabulated the numbers for the requestor. The numbers they provided for 2007 were odd. They do not match any of the South Precinct crime numbers published in the 2007 SPD Annual Report. Maybe there is an explanation, but I don’t know what that explanation might be.

I believe we have made major strides in fighting certain crimes. I credit those successes to our Major Crimes Task Force and the Commander of that unit. Does that mean that Seattle crime is at 1967 levels?

The salary of every Seattle public official is paid by the taxpayers. At the very least, the taxpayers deserve the whole truth for their money even if the whole truth is not so rosy. If the taxpayers are not worthy to receive the whole truth, then how can public officials be held accountable?

Speaking of accountability, the last big snowstorm is history. The mayor gave himself a “B” for the way the city handled things. If that’s the result of the city’s best plan for a snowstorm, I wonder what plan is in place to handle a real disaster. It was a different story with the next dusting of snow. Strange things happen when an election is less than a year away. The City Council wants to hire an outside consultant to tell the city what went wrong during the snow storm. Allow me to save the taxpayers some money. There was inadequate planning and preparation. It’s as simple as that. Get over it. Admit the mistakes and do what is necessary to see it doesn’t happen again. The taxpayers are tired of lame excuses.

Rumors continue to circulate about the department implementing the 10 hour shifts. We have not been able to get a definitive answer from the Chief as to his intentions even though the contract is very specific as to how and when the new shifts will be implemented. To implement new shifts before we have adequate staffing would be an act of lunacy, just like implementing NPP with

inadequate staffing levels. What would be adequate staffing for the 10 hour shifts? The department says they need 633.5 patrol officers. For the sake of argument, I will make those 634 officers. This is a minimum number, and actually means 634 officers assigned to one-officer patrol cars. Personally, I think that number might be a bit conservative. What about two-officer cars? If the department wants 10% two-officer cars, they need 10% (63) more patrol officers or a total of 697. If they want 20% two-officer cars, they need 760 patrol officers to **safely** implement the 10 hour shifts.

How many patrol officers do we currently have? In a recent newspaper article on South Precinct crime, the department said there are 82 patrol officers assigned to the South Precinct, 17% of the department’s total number of patrol officers. That means we have 482 patrol officers. If the department wants all one-officer cars on the 10 hour shifts, we are 152 officers short. If they want 10% two-officer cars, we are 215 officers short. If they want 20% two-officer cars, we are 278 officers short. At the end of 2008 we had 56 more sworn personnel than we had at the beginning of 2008. You do the math.

It appears the taxpayers will be shelling out \$4.5 billion for a tunnel to replace the Alaskan Way Viaduct. That’s before cost over-runs, and you can add the cost of a Seattle ballot asking the taxpayers if they wanted a tunnel. The majority of voters said “No”. And I recall that on more than one occasion the voters said “No” to giving hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to the multimillionaire owners of professional sports teams so those owners would not have to shell out all that money to build stadiums for their teams. Do you ever get the feeling that politicians don’t give a crap about anything the taxpayers want?

I’m not adverse to the idea of a tunnel per se. I am opposed to any idea which is obsolete before it’s even used. SPIDER and I-5 are two good examples. I-5 through downtown Seattle was obsolete before it was opened to traffic because it is shaped like an hourglass with the neck right in the middle of Seattle. Its design doomed it to create gridlock. The proposed four lane tunnel will be the neck of another hourglass in downtown Seattle. Your tax dollars at work...

I have not seen a Personnel Order for 2009. I have no staffing figures for the new year.

Be safe out there.



## Happy Anniversary

The Guardian Staff is pleased to announce the milestones achieved by the following SPOG members during the month of February 2009!



### 40 years of Service

Detective Joe Bouffiou, Mayor’s Detail

### 30 years of Service

Detective Sergeant Kevin Aratani, Robbery  
Officer Chuck Allers, Harbor  
Officer Chris Gough, SPOC

### 20 years of Service

Sergeant Joe Bauer, SW Precinct  
Sergeant Peter Pieper, South Precinct  
Detective Jim Cooper, Homicide  
Detective Suzanne Ross, DV  
Officer Dave Leonard, Harbor  
Officer Mike Lewis, K9

### 15 years of Service

Officer Steve Kim, North Precinct  
Officer Matt Ness, SWAT  
Officer Dwayne Pirak, SWAT  
Officer Colleen Raftis, K9  
Officer Kathleen Singleton, West Precinct  
Officer Brian Hanson, North Precinct

### 10 years of Service

Detective Christopher Hall, False Alarms  
Detective Jason Verhoff, DV  
Detective Manny Quinonez, Auto Theft  
Detective Marcos Ortiz, Narcotics  
Officer Bobby Marlow, West Precinct  
Officer Chad McLaughlin, West Precinct  
Officer Richard Nelson, Mounted  
Officer Mike Bonet, South Precinct  
Officer David Bunge, East Precinct  
Officer Mark Grinstead, West Precinct  
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# OPA 101: The Basics

By Sergeant Randy Woolery, OPA-IS

The vast majority of the Department never interacts with OPA-IS or the OPA process. For this reason, I have found there is a misunderstanding and even confusion about the job we do and how we do it. I hope you find the following basics about OPA helpful. This is my personal perspective and is in no way is the official policy or guidance from OPA.

The Office of Professional Accountability takes all complainants that come in and reviews them for classification. Classification is the starting point of the OPA process. These numbers are not firm (they are still being counted) but OPA took in about 1300 complaints (calls, walk-ins, e-mails and letters) in 2008. The majority of these complaints, about 800 of them, received the classification of Contact Log (CL). The contact log is nothing more that a chronological spreadsheet where we list the date/time of the call, caller’s information, a summary of the call and what, if anything, we did with the information. A large number of contact logs are commendations received on the OPA website and they are forwarded to the employees chain of command. We also get a lot of calls asking questions and looking for general police information not complaint related.

Preliminary Investigation Reports (PIRs) are the next level of classification and they cannot result in any type of discipline but they contain service quality information that needs to be sent to the chain of command. You may or may not get a five-day notice of complaint if we do an intake on a PIR. If you do get a five-day notice of complaint and it is classified as a PIR, you will be notified and there will be no further OPA action taken. The vast majority are information only and OPA or the

employee’s chain of command may contact the complainant to explain to them the When, Where, How or Why. There were about 250 of these in 2008.

Supervisory Referrals (SRs) again have no discipline associated with them but are more formalized in the fact the employee’s supervisor is required to look into the complaint, contact everyone involved, speak with the employee if there are any training issues and then give the complainant formal closure with a letter signed by the employee’s captain. The vast majority of SRs involve courtesy and rudeness type issues and they are so minor in nature that discipline would not be warranted or called for if the complaint was true. There were about 70 SRs in 2008.

Line Investigations (LIs) are the first level of complaint classification that could result in discipline. These are investigated by the named employee’s lieutenant and normally center around minor policy issues that are often internal in nature and fit more into the work performance category, as opposed to misconduct. Line investigations also tend to be less complex, requiring a minimal number of interviews the investigator has to conduct. There were about 20 LIs in 2008.

Internal Investigations (IIS) are the last level of classification and the investigative section of OPA investigates them. We are looking at about 150 IIS investigations in 2008. I know that there has been talk about IIS only investigating serious misconduct issues and I think these are the issues that we deal with. To me, if on its face, the complaint was true and could result in discipline, then I think it is serious and warrants a complete and unbiased

investigation. I bet if you were accused of something that might result in discipline, you would think it was serious and you would want it fully and fairly investigated.

When I first came to OPA-IS I was given some advice from a former IIS sergeant who told me that everyone benefits from a complete and through investigation. The employee benefits, the department benefits and the person making the complaint benefits. We have a sustained rate of less than 15% meaning that more than 85% of our complaints are unfounded or exonerated. The OPA process is able to verify the good work everyone does every day and we also verify that we don’t have misconduct running rampant in our ranks. The majority of the sustained complaints are often identified as training issues or not intentional misconduct and they result in no discipline but a supervisory intervention to correct the issue and prevent reoccurrence.

I’ve read the Internal Affairs yearly report for NYPD and they have a criminal division within IAD that investigates their officers for numerous criminal acts. They have an arson unit, insurance fraud unit, domestic violence unit and even a theft/robbery unit within Internal Affairs. We have none of that in SPD!


Mediation is an ever-increasing opportunity to OPA complaints and can come from any of the above classifications and are voluntarily entered into between the named employee and the complainant. A professional mediator is used so both sides can hear the other’s perspective and have a chance to talk. In the end, nothing has to be agreed to and all that is required by the named employee is good faith participation. When mediation is over, regardless of the original complaint classification, the complaint is closed and no discipline can result. The OPA director reviews all complaints. Those she thinks could benefit from mediation and a hold is placed while both parties (employee and subject)

are contacted and asked if they would like to participate.

The OPA-IS intake sergeant (the person who takes the initial complaint) gathers all of the available documents (reports, in-car video, 911 calls, radio tapes, complainant interviews) and sends this information to the OPA Lieutenant who reviews each packet (even the contact log entries) and the initial classification is made. Next, the OPA-IS captain concurs or changes the classification and sends it to the OPA Director for final approval once the independent auditor has had a chance to read the classification packet and comment if needed.


The last thing I would like to address in this article is the fact that OPA-IS takes all complaints and runs them through this process. Here is the reason why: A couple of decades ago a very crazy sounding complainant came to IIS alleging an SPD sergeant was growing and selling marijuana out of his house. The complaint sounded crazy and the complainant was crazy but instead of writing it off the IIS sergeant went to the house as part of his due diligence. Have you guessed the results yet? A major marijuana growing operation was discovered and the former sergeant was sent to federal prison. I might not have all of the facts in this story straight but the basic premise is what matters. The public deserves a system where their complaints can be heard and addressed. As professionals on this department you deserve to a fair and unbiased internal complaint process. As a society we need an honest, respectful and professional police service we can all trust and be proud of.

Let me know if you have any questions about OPA or the complaint process. I know that for everything I wrote above someone will highlight their experience when it didn’t work that way or they feel their complaint was not fair or unbiased. I’m very sorry for these exceptions but they are not the norm and I guarantee you if you get a complaint and it is assigned to me, this is how you will be treated.




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# Officer of the Month

By Detective Christopher Hall, False Alarm Unit

The SPOG Officers of the Month for January 2009 are Officers Andrew Wilkes, Sydney Brathwaite, Steve Kaffer, Clayton Agate, Amy Branham, Ernest Jensen, Maurice Washington, Azrielle Johnson and Detective Dan Conine of the South Precinct, as nominated by Sergeant Paul Leung for turning a relatively minor VUCSA arrest into a recovery of drugs, guns and stolen property.

On December 1, 2008 at Officers Wilkes & Brathwaite arrested a suspect for VUCSA. The officers interviewed the suspect, who agreed to cooperate and provide information to them. With assistance from Officer Kaffer, they were able to pinpoint a house where there were drugs available and a convicted felon that was known to carry a gun lived. They were also able to determine that there was stolen property inside the house and to identify a burglary that matched the stolen property.

Officers Kaffer, Wilkes and Detective Conine coordinated with South ACT and conducted an order up. A female suspect was arrested with 6.7 grams of heroin during the order up. This suspect was interviewed and she confirmed there were additional drugs, as well as guns and stolen property inside the house. She then gave written consent to search the house.

Officers Kaffer, Johnson and Detective Conine went to the residence with South ACT and contacted the convicted felon. He also gave a written consent to search the residence.

The search yielded 4 loaded handguns (one of which was stolen), a loaded shotgun and an unloaded sawed-off shotgun. They also recovered 27.9 grams of heroin, 50 pills of ecstasy, stolen electronics and

tools as well as swords and hunting knives.

Sergeant Leung noted in his nomination, “All of the officers involved should be highly commended for their effort in carryout this investigation as far as possible. Any of the officers could have ended this investigation at any point however, if they did the end result would not be the same.”

As Officers of the Month, Officers Andrew Wilkes, Sydney Brathwaite, Steve Kaffer, Clayton Agate, Amy Branham, Ernest Jensen, Maurice Washington, Azrielle Washington and Detective Dan Conine have selected the Help the Officer Fund as the recipient of the \$250 SMCU donation.

Also nominated this month were:

Officers Jonard Legaspi, Frank Poblocki, Ian Stuart and Detective James Rogers were nominated by Sergeant George Bray and Sergeant Drew Hancock for their action to save a suicidal deaf man on the monorail tracks. The officers worked together while Detective Rogers communicated with the man via sign language to resolve the incident safely.

Detective Bob Shilling was nominated by Detective Rande Christiansen for his actions while working at a Seahawks game. After breaking up a fight, Detective Shilling recognized one suspect was possibly suffering from PTSD after deployment to the Middle East. Detective Shilling took the time to hear the man’s problems, calm him down, recommend care for him to seek and contacted the suspect’s family. This calmed the man down, and when the suspect was released from the stadium, he left grateful for the intervention.

# Safety Bulletin

## Safe Winter Driving

By Officer John Abraham, Safety Coordinator and SPOG Sergeant-at-Arms

Hi Gang: First let me apologize for being a “Day Late and a Dollar Short”. I should have had this article out before the snow. But you never know, .it might snow again so here are some tips from the Washington Department of Transportation, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and myself.

Winter conditions call for different Driving Tactics. Ice and snow: take it slow; slower speed, slower acceleration, slower steering and slower braking. Give yourself extra time to reach your destination safely. Drive with your headlights on, drive for the conditions. Do not get overconfident with a four-wheel drive; it will not help you stop any faster.

Winter road conditions often result in longer stopping distances (rain or snow), so allow additional room between your vehicle and others. Slow down when approaching intersections, off ramps, bridges or shady spots. These all have the potential to develop “BLACK ICE” that make driving hazardous. Avoid abrupt actions while steering, braking

or accelerating to lessen the chances of loosing control of the vehicle. Look farther ahead in traffic (aim high in steering). Actions by other drivers will alert you to problems and give you extra time to react. Trucks take longer to stop; DO NOT cut in front of them! DO NOT use cruise control on snow or wet surfaces! Don’t let your car make decisions for you! Stopping on snow, ice and water without skidding requires extra time and distance. If you have anti-lock brakes, press the pedal down firmly and hold it. If you do not have anti-lock brakes, gently pump the pedal. Either way, give yourself plenty of room to stop.

These are just some tips to use both at work and at home to arrive safely to wherever you might be going. For more Safe driving tips log on to [www.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov) or [www.wsdot.gov](http://www.wsdot.gov).

If you need any addition information from yours truly please feel free to contact me.

That’s it for this addition. Remember, your profession is law enforcement, your job is to go home at the end of your shift!

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Thank You to Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union for their generous donation of \$250 to the Help the Officer Fund in the name of Officers of the Month, Officers Andrew Wilkes, Sydney Brathwaite, Steve Kaffer, Clayton Agate, Amy Branham, Ernest Jensen, Maurice Washington, Azrielle Johnson, and Detective Dan Conine.

**Your contribution is greatly appreciated!**

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# 2009 President

Photos Courtesy of Detective Lar

## A Proud Day for America and SPOG Members

By, *The Guardian Staff*

As prescribed by the 20<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Barrack Hussein Obama was sworn in as the nation’s 44<sup>th</sup> President precisely at noon, January 20, 2009, making him the 43<sup>rd</sup> man to have taken the Presidential oath, and the 43<sup>rd</sup> time in this nation’s history that there has been a peaceful transfer of power. Due to the historic nature of this inauguration, the Seattle Police Department sent 39-SPOG members and three commanders to Washington D.C. to augment the law enforcement ranks. They are as follows: Captain Mike Sanford, Lieutenants Carmen Best and Donnie Lowe, Sergeants Jim Dymment Jr, Ann Martin, Dianne Newsom, Marc Garth-Green, Drew Hancock, Jay Mooney and Paul Gracy, Detectives Larry Meyer, Scott Kawahara, Tom Mooney, Brian Lundin, Rolf Norton, Steve Kilburg, Rich Huntington, Gene Foster, Tim Fields, Mark Jamieson, Mike Alphin, Ron Sanders and Wes Friesen, and Officers Chris Garrett, Matt Diezsi, Heather Roufs, Denise Bouldin, Walt Hayden, Jeff Page, Mike Meder, Kirk Waldorf, Larry Jackson, Adam Thorp, Joselito Banez, David Terry, Alvaro Ferreira, Alex Jenkins, Mike Washington, Will Witt, Jon Huber, Mark Misiorek and Matthew Lilje.

These sergeants, detectives and officers were on post at 0430 hours on Inauguration Day in sub-freezing temperatures near the White House in the 1500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue, serving alongside fellow law enforcement officers from around the country. Though the day was long, and the weather brutal, many of those on the detail have commented how proud they were to wear the Seattle Police Department uniform on this historic day. Many comments were also to the professionalism and hospitality shown by the Metropolitan Police (D.C.) from the time our officers touched down at Dulles Airport, until the time they departed for home.

Several officers also commented that Homeland Security Administrative Assistant Celina Villa deserves heartfelt thanks for the many hours of work behind the scenes getting the trip put together.





# cial Inaguration

ry Myer and Officer Chris Garrett





# New Year's Greeting

By Tim Burgess, Public Safety Chair, Seattle City Council

On December 30<sup>th</sup> my staff and I drove out to the police range and went through a “shoot-don’t shoot” computer simulation exercise.

It was a sobering experience as each of us struggled to make the split second judgment you may face in your work on the streets of Seattle. Less than 48 hours later, two officers in the North Precinct were forced to make this decision. No computer simulation. No practice exercise. No consulting with a firearms instructor.

What we experienced as a training exercise was all too real for the North Precinct officers. And while most of you will never fire your weapon at another human being during your career, you must always be prepared to do so. Our time at the range reinforced my understanding of the pressures, complexities, and demands of police work.

This past year was a good one for our police department. Reported Part I crimes continued to decline, reaching 40+ year lows. Tens of thousands of citizen contacts were handled professionally. New employment contracts were negotiated that properly compensate each of you for your good service.

Last year was also very challenging, especially with regard to youth violence and gangs. The department continues to adjust and innovate to address these problems, yet we have much more to do. As officers, I know you accept, even welcome, the tough work required to make a difference. I’ve been proud to see so many of you at community meetings, engaging with moms and dads and others who worry about their children and neighborhoods. I’ve been impressed by your interactions with citizens and your skill in comforting, hearing, and supporting them. That’s excellent community policing.

We set very high expectations for you. We expect you to serve with distinction all the time, with every citizen, under every circumstance. With rare exception, Seattle police officers always meet these expectations.

I’m grateful for your service to the people of Seattle. As we begin this New Year, please accept my thanks and that of my colleagues on the City Council.

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In fond remembrance of Kenny Trent, I would like to tell you a bit about him. Physically, he was about 5’9” tall but when he spoke you would swear he was a closer to 6’9”. He was barrel-chested and had an unmistakable air of authority. When we walked into a house and he announced that the loud party was over, everybody immediately left with no arguments and no name-calling. Everyone just quietly went away.

Ken was a storyteller. He had remembrances of his service in Korea while in the U.S. Army, and vignettes of his truck-driving brother that made the nine-years we shared a two-man car just melt away.

He was a police partner like no other, and through my tears I have to say that I will miss him everyday for the rest of my days.

Sincerely,  
Jim Street #2353  
SPD Retired

# Safe Call Now

Public Safety is stressful, demanding career. You keep communities safe. You protect life and property. You enforce laws. You resolve conflicts. Public safety rests on your shoulders. What happens when your personal life and career are out of balance? You are going through divorce. Your finances are out of control. You can’t sleep. A traumatic event at work is haunting you. Drugs and alcohol seem to lessen the effects.

Don’t ignore the warning signs. Help is available.

Safe Call Now was established by public safety employees from throughout Washington State for public safety employees, including civilians. Several of those instrumental in creating this program are from Seattle PD. They include Kevin Hastings, Mike Nolan, Harry James and Steve Redmond.

Seattle Police Chief R. Kerlikowske serves as Safe Call Now Board of Directors; Assistant Chief Nick Metz serves on the Safe Call Now Advisory Board and Sergeant Kevin Hastings serves on the Safe Call Now Executive Committee.

Safe Call Now has been endorsed and supported by numerous public safety labor organizations including the Seattle Police Officers Guild. It is also supported by such organizations as The Behind the Badge Foundation formerly the Washington State Law Enforcement Memorial), The Seattle Chaplains Association and, many others.

Talk to someone who understands the stressful demands of your work. Safe Call Now is an independent organization that is *not* affiliated with any police, corrections or fire agency.

To learn more about Safe Call Now, see the attached link:  
[www.safecallnow.org](http://www.safecallnow.org)  
To call Safe Call Now, call 206-459-3020

The Guild actively urges its members to write articles for publication in *The Guardian*. The newspaper cannot survive without membership contributions.

All articles and advertisements submitted for publication will be accepted subject to editorial review and changes. The editor shall retain the decision to publish, not publish, or edit an article/advertisement. The editor’s decision to publish or not publish an article or advertisement can be appealed to the editorial board, which shall have final and binding decision making authority over the publication of the article/advertisement. Articles appearing under an author’s byline do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Seattle Police Officers’ Guild.

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# No Cost Lodging For Cops Visiting the Mayo Clinic

By Mike Walsh, Rochester (MN) Police Department

Rochester has long been known for the Mayo Clinic and the fine medical care provided there. People from all over the world come to Mayo for medical needs, including law enforcement officers and their family members.

It is not at all uncommon for Officers from the Rochester Police Department to be approached by out of town cops who are in Rochester for Mayo related reasons. They stop us to say hello, to trade patches, to ask us where to eat, where to go, things to do, etc. We also from time to time get calls from departments around the country, where a co-worker of a law enforcement officer at Mayo calls to say "One of my co-workers is at Mayo... can you help them out at all or look out for them?" We certainly do what we can to help, but aside from general advice or little things, there has typically not been a lot we could do for our fellow law enforcement officers or their families.

That changed earlier this year through the hard work and efforts of Officer Don Bray of the Rochester Police Department. Don was able to find and secure lodging that law enforcement officers visiting the Mayo Clinic could use at no cost. We all know how expensive medical care can be when we are in our own home areas, let alone when we have to travel miles and miles for care and stay extended periods of time away from home because of it.

Don was able to make arrangements for two apartments near downtown, close to Mayo, to be available for use only by visiting cops and their family members. These apartments will make the costs of out of town medical care less of a concern for cops in need. Great job Don!

One apartment is for short-term visitors, the other for longer-term visitors. Both are in a great location, fully furnished, and provided at

absolutely no cost to cops and their family members. The apartments are paid for via private donations and through the Rochester Police Benevolent Association and the Olmsted County Deputy Sheriff's Association. The apartments are only for use by those seeking medical treatment here in Rochester; they are not for use for vacations or other non-medical events.

If you know of any cops who are coming to Rochester for medical reasons and they would like to stay in one of the apartments, please have them get in touch with Officer Don Bray via email at [dbray@rochestermn.gov](mailto:dbray@rochestermn.gov) or by phone at **507-251-3197**.

Simply due to scheduling reasons, the earlier those who would like use of the apartments contact Don, the better for everyone, as they can and do get scheduled out ahead and booked up. These apartments are also

not limited to just cops from Minnesota; they are for use by law enforcement officers from anywhere.

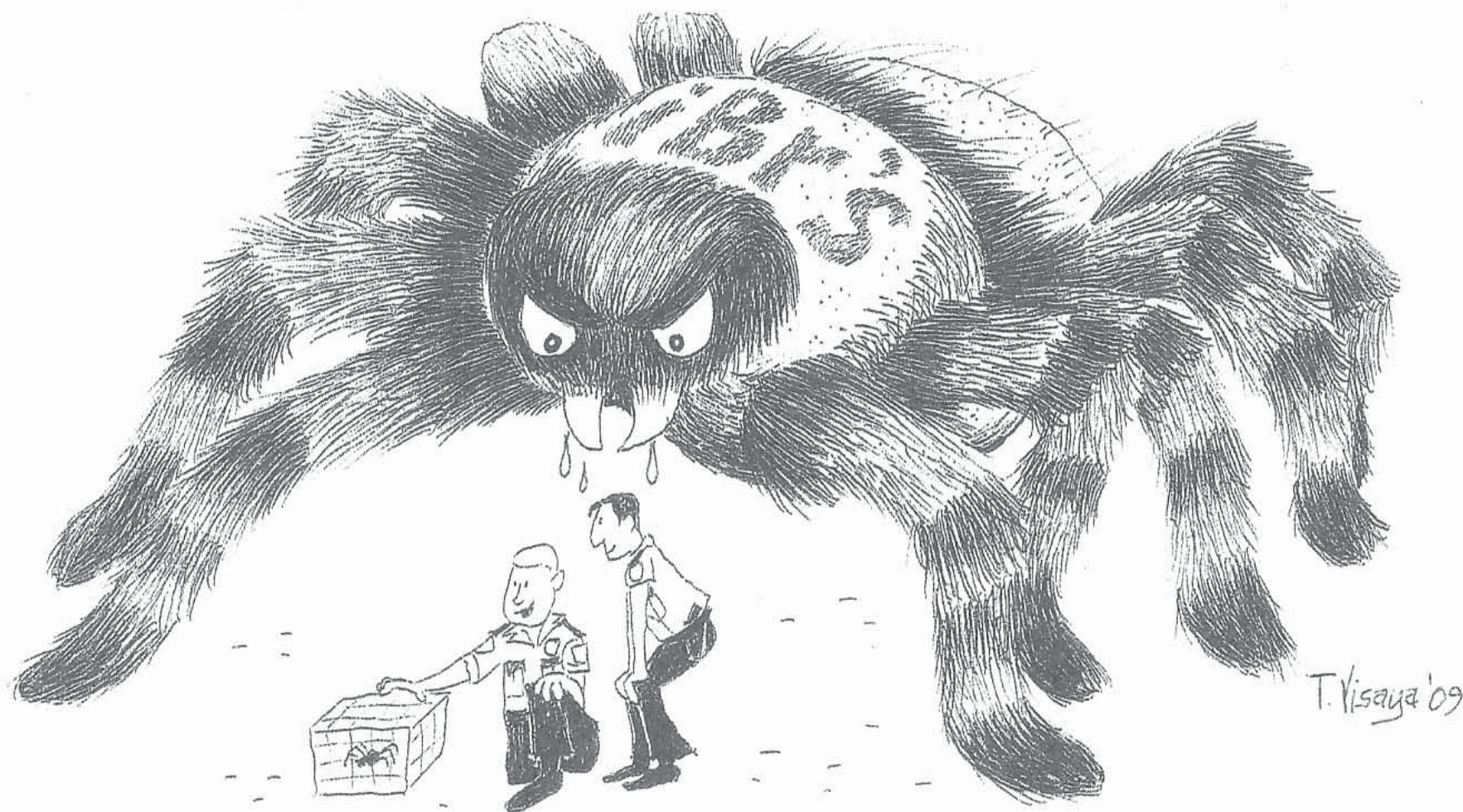
If any of your associations would like to make donations to help pay for these apartments, please feel free to do so! Donations can be made to the:

**Rochester Police Benevolent Association**  
C/O Don Bray  
101 SE 4th Street  
Rochester, MN 55904

Please spread the word about the availability of the apartments.

This article originally appeared in the *Minnesota Police Journal*, Winter 2008 and is re-printed in *The Guardian* with permission of the author

## Taming the beast . . .



"Hah! I think I've got this little bugger under control!"



# HR-218 Explained

By Ken Wallentine, Chief of Law Enforcement, Utah Attorney General

*Editor Note: This article originally appeared as an exclusive on Policeone.com, and is reprinted with permission of the author, PoliceOne legal columnist Mr. Ken Wallentine*

A South Dakota Circuit Court judge recently dismissed charges relating to carrying concealed weapons against Scott Lazalde, 38, of Bellingham, Washington, and James Rector, 44, Ferndale, Washington, law enforcement officers with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service, and Dennis McCoy, 58, of Seattle, Wash., a Seattle Police Sergeant and Ron Smith, 43, a Seattle Police Detective. During a confrontation at the Loud American Roadhouse bar in Sturgis, South Dakota, Detective Smith shot Hells Angel member Joseph McGuire as McGuire made aggressive moves toward Smith.

McGuire still faces assault charges.

The judge ruled that a state may restrict police officers from carrying weapons on state property, but is barred from restricting officers from carrying weapons on private property within the state. The judge’s decision dismisses charges filed by Meade County State’s Attorney Jesse Sondreal. Sondreal claimed that state law should trump HR 218, known as the Law Enforcement Officers’ Safety Act (LEOSA).

Judge Warren Johnson ruled that, “While states retain the right to prohibit the possession of firearms on government property and to permit private persons and entities to prohibit the possession of firearms on their property, they cannot restrict qualified law enforcement officers in any other manner.” Judge Johnson’s decision is a victory for sworn officers whose concealed-carry rights are protected under LEOSA. The court really did nothing more than uphold the time-honored principle that local authorities must obey federal laws.

The LEOSA allows any law enforcement officer with powers of arrest, who is authorized to carry a weapon on duty (whether or not the officer actually carries a weapon), and meets certain standards, or retired officer who formerly met these criteria, to lawfully carry a concealed handgun in any state. There are certain narrow limitations. Qualified law enforcement officers employed by or retired from a local, state or federal law enforcement agency. A “qualified active law enforcement officer” is defined as an employee of a government agency who:

- is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law;

- has statutory powers of arrest;
  - is authorized by the agency to carry a firearm; is not the subject of any disciplinary action by the agency;
  - meets the standards, if any, established by the agency which require the employee to regularly qualify in the use of a firearm;
  - is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance;
  - and is not prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm.
- Qualified active law enforcement officers must carry the photographic identification issued by the agency for which they are employed. A “qualified retired law enforcement officer” is defined as an individual who:
- has retired in good standing from service with a government agency as a law enforcement officer for an aggregate of fifteen (15) years or more for reasons other than mental instability, OR retired from such an agency due to a service-connected disability after completing any applicable probationary period of such service;
  - was authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or the incarceration of any person for any violation of law;
  - had statutory powers of arrest;
  - has a nonforfeitable right to benefits under the retirement plan of the agency for which he was employed;
  - meets, at his own expense, the same standards for qualification with a firearm as an active officer within the state in which he or she resides;
  - is not under the influence of alcohol or another intoxicating or hallucinatory drug or substance;
  - and is not prohibited by federal law from possessing a firearm.

Qualified retired law enforcement officers must carry the photographic identification issued by the agency for which they were employed and documentation which shows that they have met the qualification standards in their state of residence for the firearm they are carrying.

A number of questions are left unanswered by the LEOSA and are left to state officials to interpret and implement. For example, the LEOSA speaks of meeting a state firearms qualification standard. Some states have no state standards and those states leave firearms qualification standards to local agency discretion. There are no mandated procedures for qualification and identification documents for retired officers. Several states have taken affirmative action to fill the gaps left by the LEOSA and to facilitate its implementation. Other states have done little or nothing. Commonly asked questions include:

“I am a fully-sworn law enforcement officer with statutory law enforcement authority, but I work for a private university, or other non-

governmental employer. Will I be able to carry under the provisions of the LEOSA?”

No. You must be an employee of a local, state or federal governmental agency to carry a firearm under the provisions of this legislation.

“My agency has a policy that does not allow me to carry my firearm while I am off-duty. Does this mean that this legislation will not affect me?”

If you are a qualified active law enforcement officer, you will legally be able to carry a firearm under the provisions of the LEOSA. There may be agencies which enforce or adopt policies, rules, regulations, or employment conditions which discourage or punish officers who choose to carry while off-duty, but such actions do not mean that the officer cannot carry under the provisions of the bill.

“I am a retired officer, how do I qualify to carry under the provisions of this bill?”

Retired officers must qualify at their own expense and, once they do, will be able to carry the firearm with which they have been qualified with under the provisions of the LEOSA. Each state may adopt different procedures. The state may issue retired officers who have qualified with their firearm a document certifying that the officer has met the state’s requirements. Retired officers must carry this documentation in addition to their photographic identification.

“Does the LEOSA allow me to carry a firearm on an airplane?”

No. This legislation exempts qualified active and retired law enforcement officers from state and local laws regarding the carrying of concealed firearms, not federal laws. Carrying firearms on aircraft is regulated by other federal statutes and airline policy. There are other laws regulating carrying firearms on military bases, national parks, court houses, and post offices.

“I am a constable. Do I benefit from this law?”

Not unless employed by a state, city, or county law enforcement agency, and granted powers to investigate crimes and make arrests. A contractual relationship with a city or county is probably not sufficient to grant the protection of this law, but further study is needed on this issue.

“Could the state do nothing to implement the LEOSA, and not be in violation of federal law?” Yes. An officer has no right to state-issued identification, state-administered qualification, or for the

state to establish a qualification standard. Many agency legal advisors conclude that if the state does not have a firearms qualification standard, then no standard must be met. In other words, retired and active officers could carry weapons without meeting any standard. As for identification for retired officers, the federal law does not require that the identification be current, or show that the officer is actually retired. If a state does nothing, the likely legal result is that officers can still carry concealed weapons.

“Who will issue the required identification for retired officers?” Some agencies already do so. The law does not contemplate that the state will issue identification; the state’s role is to issue a ‘certificate’ of qualification if the agency from which the officer retired does not do so.

“Who will administer the qualification of retired officers?”

Unknown. Should it be the agency from which the retired officer resides? What about retired officers who move to Utah (a big issue in Florida!)? Should it be the state’s POST?

“Who will maintain qualification records for retired officers?”

Unknown. Aside from individual agencies, a state POST could easily create a system transforming officers’ training records into retired officers’ records once an officer retires from an agency. This does not address the situation of officers who retire from one state and move to another state.

A clean-up bill is pending in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Senate Bill 376 and House Resolution 2726 would amend the LEOSA to clarify the concealed carry rights of retired law enforcement officers. The bills also clarifies that Amtrak Police Department officers and the executive branch of the Federal Government who are classified as a GS-0083 meet the definition of “qualified law enforcement officer” in the LEOSA. The Senate bill proposes that the aggregate years of service needed to meet the definition of “qualified retired law enforcement officer” would be reduced from fifteen to ten years and cleans up confusing language related to that definition.

*Ken Wallentine is Chief of Law Enforcement for the Utah Attorney General. A veteran officer and attorney, his most recent book, The K9 Officer’s Legal Handbook is now available from LexisNexis. For more information about this valuable new book, go to [www.kenwallentine.com](http://www.kenwallentine.com).*



# Sermon From the Bottom of the Mount; “Woe is Me”

By Gary DeLaganes, President of the San Francisco Police Officers Association

At some point in everyone’s life an inevitable truth becomes a reality. In my case, it was the recent realization that I have celebrated most of my birthdays and probably don’t have all that many left to come. The many years I’ve spent doing athletic activities and police work have taken a toll on my body – my lower back is racked with arthritis and it takes me at least two hours every morning to reach the point where I can stand up straight; my rotator cuff is shot; two knee operations, and the subsequent arthritis, has made running an impossibility; and a torn Achilles tendon has further limited my mobility.

On the other hand, now having gained the knowledge and maturity that age ultimately brings, I can become more accepting of the inevitable and become comfortable in my own skin and finally see clearly what my priorities in life ought to be. As I reach the finish line in my own career, I can reflect on all of the mistakes that I’ve made and pass on a few hard-learned lessons about the exasperating but rewarding life as a police officer.

I’m calling them, “Gary’s Ten Commandments.” There are really 11, but who’s counting?

Keep friends outside of police work. You need a different perspective on life from time to time that other cops can’t provide

Compartmentalize your life. When your shift is over, turn the switch off and go home. Don’t dwell on the insanity or the frustration. Just leave it.

We make a fair and generous salary. Don’t put yourself in the financial position where OT rules your life. You don’t really need a boat, or a \$70,000 car, especially when there’s little time off to enjoy the toys because you’re always at work earning the scratch to pay for them. Live within your means.

Put your loved ones ahead of the job. Never think that putting some a-hole in jail is more important than getting to your kid’s soccer games. It’s not, and you can always arrest the bad guy, but each of the kid’s games is a one-time opportunity. Don’t squander those special times.

Liquor is only a temporary solution. When you wake up the next morning the problems are the same and all you have gained is a hangover. That’s if you’re lucky. If you’re not you wake up alone in an empty house.

Don’t become a lifetime member of the “I’m getting screwed” club. Some cops turn into miserable human beings who hate everyone and everything. Don’t fall into that trap. It’s the glass-is-half-full thing. The glass is really half full. Appreciate that.

Never lose your sense of humor. It is the greatest asset a police officer has. Stand back and enjoy the show. A few laughs now will quickly turn into a lifetime of chuckles and fond memories.

Don’t become obsessed with promotion. Some of the best, brightest, and most satisfied cops I have ever known never took a promotional exam. They just did not want to put themselves, or their families, through the insanity of it all. They also loved the job, loved the streets, and were really good at what they did.

Never take your family for granted. In the end, they are the ones who really care about you. When you are on your deathbed they will be the ones you will be answering to, not some idiot sergeant who pissed you off.

Stay happy, stay positive, exercise, and every day take a deep breath of fresh air and give thanks for what you have. We have chosen one of the few professions that allow us to truly make a difference, but it is also a job that can destroy you if you let it.

Remember, the goal at the end of the day is to go home, live another 30 years, and die in your sleep. All the rest is just a dream.

*This article is reprinted with permission of the author, Gary DeLaganes, President of the San Francisco Police Officers Association and a 30-year veteran of the San Francisco P.D.*

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# Retired News

## By Mike Germann

### NEW SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT RETIREMENTS

Nothing new this month to publish in the way of retirements for LEOFF I or LEOFF II. For those of you who may want to know, there are only **46** LEOFF I Seattle Police Officers still remaining on active service at year end 2008.

### WITHHOLDING AND OTHER CHANGES

Those of you who want to make any changes regarding withholding, banking or whatever in the new year, need to do so now. State (LEOFF I) changes need to be directed to:

- Washington Department of Retirement Systems:  
Telephone toll free @ 1-800-547-6657
- Seattle Police Pension (City) Retirement System:  
call Elaine @ (206) 386-1286

Those of you who are not currently on direct deposit for pension payment only (not reimbursements), need to consider doing so. Stop payment and check reissuance procedures in case of theft or loss are costly and time consuming. Think it over.

Mukilteo, WA 98275  
Questions??: Call Nick @ (425) 349-5373  
Thanks for keeping your dues to Retired Officers' Association current.

### RETIRED SEATTLE OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

### **DUES – DUES – DUES FOR RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION**

Annual dues of \$12.00/year for the Retired Seattle Police Officers' Association are coming up. Those receiving a Seattle Police Pension (City) check and who have so authorized will see a \$12.00 deduction on their January 30, 2009 payment. If you're not a paid-up lifetime member and you don't receive a City check or haven't so authorized, you need to send your dues payment for 2009 **NOW**.

Payee: "R.S.P.O.A."  
(Retired Seattle Police Officers' Association)  
Check amount: \$12.00  
Send to: Nick Bulpin  
5020 Brighton Place

### S.P.M.A. RATIFIES NEW CONTRACT

The 61 eligible voting members of the Seattle Police Management Association have "overwhelmingly" voted to accept the City of Seattle's contract proposal for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011. This, according to S.P.M.A. President, Captain Dan Oliver. The money part of the agreement is as follows:

### COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: SPMA – CITY OF SEATTLE 2009 – 2011

#### **Salaries**

- 2009 – 7.5% on the base (as of 1-7-09)
- Longevity increases (based upon a Lieutenant's salary) (as of 1-7-09, also)
  - o 2% more at 25 years service – total 11%
  - o 2% more at 30 years service – total 12%
- 2010 – 100% CPI + 3% w/floor of 2% - ceiling of 7% (as of 1-6-10)

- 2011 – 100% CPI w/floor of 2% - ceiling of 7% ( as of 1-5-11)

Moved from National CPI to Local CPI while maintaining a June-June snapshot as the actual number and utilizing 100% of the 1967 number as the baseline for inflation index.

Does this sound good to you? If yes, you can thank Captain Dan Oliver, S.P.M.A. President, and his negotiating team. But, really, it was Dan Oliver's leadership, focus, tenacity and negotiating skills that carried the day.

Some 100 police management retirees and lawful beneficiaries will be pleased with the escalator increase on their Seattle Police Pension (City) retirement benefit. Remember, NOT ALL FORMER SWORN POLICE MANAGEMENT RETIREES AND LAWFUL BENEFICIARIES ARE SO ENTITLED. It will probably be April-May 2009 before the enabling Seattle City Ordinance is passed and the new contract is signed. No matter. The Seattle Police (City) pension increases will be retroactive to January 7, 2009 for the first year of the new agreement. Any questions about the new police management agreement and its impact on pensions, FOR THOSE SO ENTITLED, call Mike Germann at the Seattle Police Pension Office at (206) 386-1289.

### **RETIRED SEATTLE POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**

### **Minutes of the Monthly Meeting January 15, 2009**

President Taylor called the meeting to order at 11:35 in the dining room of the Four Seas restaurant at 8<sup>th</sup> South and King Street, January 14, 2009.

John Nordlund led the Pledge of Allegiance. President Taylor then asked all to remain standing for a moment of silence for the passing of Stanley A. Price, 12/26/08 and Gary Pankey who passed away January 10, 2009

Roll call of officers showed all present with the exception of John Sullivan and Dick Rovig who were excused.

President Taylor stated the minutes of the December meeting have been distributed and asked for any corrections or additions. Ed Turner moved the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Mike Slessman and passed.

Nick Bulpin gave the financial report and stated it would be submitted for audit

President Taylor reported Sandy Matheson, the director of the State Department of Retirement Systems, is retiring, after 4 years, effective March 31<sup>st</sup>. He also mentioned the replacement of retired Helen Sommers who headed the State House Ways and Means Committee, hasn't been confirmed yet, however the likely candidate is a friend from Snohomish County. Taylor reported the Pension Policy meeting scheduled for January has been cancelled.

Pat Munter reminded everyone the Old Blue reunion at the Phoenix horse race track is scheduled for Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> with the golf match March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He urged anyone planning to attend to make reservations early as accommodations get scarce with baseball's spring training.

There being no further business Mike Crist moved for adjournment.  
43 members and guests enjoyed another great lunch.

Nick Bulpin Secretary/Treasurer

## February 2009 Retirees' Birthdays

*Ed Note: Numbers in parenthesis indicate retirees February birth date*  
Karl Ahl (3), Robert D. Armstrong (23), Judith E. Auve (1), D. Michael Ballard (22), William H. Berg (21), Gene A. Birkeland (22), Arnold P. Bugni (12), Julien G. Burchfield (15), Maurice W. Carlson (16), Alfred F. Carmony (5), Phyllis Christofferson (1), Duane Clark (8), Harry W. B. Cole (6), Donald L. Compton (21), Robert B. Condit (10), Arthur W. Conley (6), Bill H. Danbom (26), Patrick O. Dempsey (4), Timothy C. Dillon (18), Barbara Jean Dunbar (14), Margaret M. Ebbeson (4), Raymond E. Eilers (3), Benjamin L. Elliott (28), Danny G. Engle (8), Maurice A. Erickson (1), Veretta A. Farrell (20), Wayne L. Ferguson (11), Edward J. Fjerstad (22), Barry A. Fletcher (2), Elsie M. Freeland (7), James R. Gillespie (25), Anton C. Gustin (4), Polly D. Haley (13), William G. Hallowell (5), Philip L. Hannum (20), Joel M. Hayes (15), Victor O. Heins (24), Neil L. Hinton (19), John N. Huff (19), Lawrence R. Inman (6), Terry P. Jackson (5), Margaret Johanson (5), Karen Kearney (18), Judith K. Kelley (18), Hugh C. Kelly (15), William D. Kroon (13), Raymond A. Lambe (12), Madge B. Lawson (17), Ethel Inez Lui (22), Roger E. Lutz (25), George E. Marberg (25), John L. Mason (3), Ronald L. Massie (20), Lillian Joyce McCoy (28), Betty L. Mcfarlane (24), Donna J. McGlothlin (19), Donna L. McGuire (28), Glenn E. Miller (2), Lawrence D. Miller (21), Charles E. Mittman (11), Sharon Mooney (28), Joseph P. Moore (16), Cory J. Ness (7), Kenneth L. Nicholas (28), Gerald D. Nikolaisen (7), Jack H. Olsen (9), Harold Dean Olson (21), David T. Orange (20), Edward C. Parker (22), James R. Parker (21), Frank A. Roys (12), Raymond F. Schork (23), Ronald M. Shelman (3), Ronald C. Sprinkle (16), Lynn F. Stark (25), Elsie S. Stevenson (15), Scott N. Sundberg (21), Steven R. Sundstrom (2), Neil D. Swenson (20), Henry Vanderlaan (13), Gordon L. Vanrooy (4), Hugh P. Wallace, Jr (2), James R. Williams (7), Norma B. Wilson (5), Gary S. Wilson (18), Luriene J. Winney (7), Gerald D. Yates (20), Richard S. Zuray (27)



# Ol’ Blue Clan 2009

The 2009 Ol’ Blue Clan reunion and golf tournament will be held on March 21 and March 22.

About the reunion:

The reunion will be held on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, in the “Turf Terrace” banquet room at the Turf Paradise Horse Race Track (1501 W. Bell Rd., Phoenix, AZ 602-375-6478).

Doors open at noon. The buffet will be served from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The first horse race will go off at approximately 12:30 to 1:00 pm.

Your \$40 admission fee includes:

- Free parking
- Admission to the track
- “How to Wager” guide
- Private banquet room
- Private betting window
- Buffet, including dessert, coffee, tax & gratuity
- Cash bar

About the golf tournament:

The golf tournament will be held on Sunday, March 22, at the “Lakes” golf course at Westbrook Village (19260 N. Westbrook Parkway, Peoria AZ 623-566-3439).

The tournament will be a scramble format with teams put together by the tournament “committee”. The first tee time will be at 11:00 am.

Your \$60 tournament fee includes:

- Green fee
- Unlimited range balls
- Power cart
- Cash prizes (huge!) for the winning teams
- 4 K-P prizes
- 2 long drive prizes
- Post Party including finger food buffet and adult beverages.

The post party will be held at Pat Munter’s condo which is on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole of the tournament golf course.

Information regarding driving directions, tournament rules and team members will be distributed at the Blue Clan reunion on Saturday, March 21.

How to Sign Up:

No reservations will be taken nor will tickets be distributed. Your check will get you on the admission list for the reunion and/or golf tournament.

If you’re doing both the reunion and the golf tournament, you can include both charges on the same check.

Send your check (maid out to Don Vert) to:

Don Vert  
637 South 77<sup>th</sup> St.  
Mesa, AZ 85208

For the reunion, include the first and last names of everyone in your group.

For the golf tournament, include your most recent handicap. If you don’t have an official handicap, include your estimated average score for 18 holes.

For more info, contact:

Don Vert at 480-380-6212 or  
2vhappy@cox.net

or: Pat Munter at 206-367-7709 or  
patmunter@comcast.net

Other Info:

- Much of the info included in this “memo” is or will be included in the “Guardian,” and/or the “Call Box.” Unfortunately, for one reason or another, many of our cohorts don’t get any of this stuff. With the attitude of “the more, the merrier”, please communicate this info to your circle of possibly interested friends.
- If you hope to attend the Blue Clan activities and haven’t made any plans yet, it is important that you do so ASAP!
- At this time, we don’t have a specific “good deal” hotel identified, but there are several websites which can help. Use the addresses for the race track or golf course for starting points. For starters, we recommend Price Line or Hot Wire.
- Flight travel tips.....for the best prices on plane tickets, make your reservations early Tuesday morning (don’t ask why). Also Tuesday and Saturday are the best days to travel for seat availability.

For years, many people have assumed, understandably so, that the Blue Clan is only for retired sworn officers. This is not the case. All S.P.D. folks including active and civilian employees are invited and encouraged to attend.

This is the prime time of the year to visit Arizona. What a great opportunity to see a Mariner Spring Training game, take a short run to Mexico, or play golf at some of the best golf courses in the country.

# Last Ring



**Stanley Alan Price, Jr.,** #2242, retired Seattle Police Department Detective and Helicopter Pilot passed away on December 26, 2008 in Fallbrook, California. He was 75 years of age upon his death.

Born on September, 1933, Stanley Alan Price, Jr., was appointed a Seattle Police”Patrolman” on March 12, 1962. From Patrol, he became a Helicopter Observer and in 9175, he was assigned as a Helicopter Pilot. Thereafter, he was assigned as a Detective for some three years in Special Detail prior to his retirement on March 14, 1987, following 25 years of sworn service.

Stanley “Al” Price is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia.



**Gary D. Pankey,** #2546, retired Seattle Police Patrol Officer, passed away suddenly in Seattle on January 10, 2009. He was 66 years of age upon his death.

Gary Pankey was born on October 2, 1942. He was appointed a Seattle Police Patrolman on January 31, 1966. Officer Pankey was assigned to Patrol and as a sworn Police Radio Dispatcher. Gary was retired from active police service on November 12, 1979.

Gary Pankey is survived by his wife, Concetta. They had been married for 46 years. Also surviving are 3 children, 2 sons and a daughter, and 5 grandchildren.



Also, our condolences to family and friends of the following deceased:

**Daisy Thole,** age 92, wife of retired Seattle Police “Patrolman” Vern Thole, #885 and mother of retired Seattle Police “”Patrolman” Alex Thole, #2521, passed away on July 14, 2008 in Hamilton, Montana.

Daisy Thole was a proud and valued member of the Canadian Air force during WWII. Daisy and Vern met on a train in Newfoundland and the rest is history.



**Ethel “Joan” Bean,** age 81, wife of retired Seattle Assistant Chief of Police Clay Bean, #1518, passed away on December 4, 2008, in Seattle. She and Clay had been married for 61 years.

Our respects to Clay Bean as he mourns his wife’s passing.



**Florence Gasperetti,** matriarch of one of Seattle’s finest Italian-American families, passed away on January 4, 2009 in Seattle, Washington, at 79 years of age, predeceased by her husband John, after 36 years of marriage. Their family owned and operated Gasperetti’s Restaurant for many, many years. Gasperetti’s was an oasis for several generations of Seattle Police Officers. You felt like a member of the family. One of John and Florence’s sons is Seattle Police Homicide Detective, Natale Gasperetti, #5280.



**Betty Skaret,** wife of retired Seattle Police Detective Harvey Skaret passed away on November 29, 2008, at the age of 89, Harvey and Betty were married for 58-years, until he passed way on July 24, 1996. Harvey spent 25- years on the department, serving many years in the Check and Forgery Department.



May they all rest in peace

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# Editor's Notes

By Detective Ron Smith, Editor



In this issue you will find an article, authored by Mr. Ken Wallentine, Chief of Law Enforcement for the Utah Attorney General regarding the LEOSA, otherwise known as HR-218, which is codified into law as 18 U.S.C. 926B/926C. This article originally appeared on the PoliceOne website, and since this department has not deemed it within its “best business interest” to inform it’s sworn employees of how the LEOSA affects them, in light of what happened in South Dakota last summer, I sought and received Mr. Wallentine’s gracious permission to reprint his informative article.

I received an e-mail from retired member Robert Anderson from Arizona, who inquired about how SPOG could provide more information about our fallen heroes, beyond the names and end of watch date of the fallen that are featured each month on the front page of *The Guardian*. With his suggestion, there is now a Fallen Officers section on the SPOG website, providing more information about our fallen heroes. In addition to this new feature, SPOG employees Sarah and Elizabeth Scott have been busy adding other new features to the SPOG website, making it more comprehensive and user friendly. These new features include a Past President’s section, “Current Grievances” section and “Current Demand to Bargain” section. The latter two sections will help keep the membership appraised of how SPOG is fighting to preserve the integrity of the collective bargaining agreement and member rights. If you are not yet signed up to have full access to the SPOG website, go to [www.seattlepoliceguild.org](http://www.seattlepoliceguild.org) and follow the sign-up procedure.

Until next month, be safe out there! As always, feel free to contact me with your comments and suggestions at [spogguardian@yahoo.com](mailto:spogguardian@yahoo.com). I am busy working on the manuscript for my first book, *Double Standard*, which I hope to have published by the fall. “Stand firm, therefore, having fastened the belt of truth around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness.”- Ephesians 6:14

## Calendar of Events

- Seattle Police Relief Association board meeting at the SPRAG Office**  
Wednesday, February 11th at 1300 hours
- President's Day (SPOG Office Closed)**  
Monday, February 16th
- SPOG Board & Shop Steward Training**  
Monday, February 23rd from 1000 to 1600
- SPOG Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 25th at 2000 hours

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## Important Date!!!!

SPOG Membership Meeting  
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